kept in abeyance as conscious decision by the concerned Ministries, court cases etc.

(d) The Government has issued detailed guidelines indicating the defined time frame for filling up such posts in CPSEs so that the Public Enterprises Selection Board recommendations should be made at least 6 months in advance of the date of occurrence of vacancies and are sent to the concerned Ministry/Department for completing other formalities.

**Exploration by Cairn in Ganga Basin**

†2352. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cairn Energy India Private Ltd., a foreign company, has been assigned the task of exploring petroleum in the Ganga basin and other areas in Bihar on contract basis;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the company has started its function involving the expenditure of about 200 crore rupees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. One exploration block namely GV-ONN--2001/1 has been contracted to M/s Cairn Energy under IV round of NELP.

(a) and (c) An investmentof US$ 0.52 Million has been incurred in this block till 31st March 2006.

**Disparity amongst contract workers**

2353. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers employed as contract workers by ONGC at Ahmedabad, Mehsana, Baroda and Ankleshwar in Gujarat.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.